

Mir Ahmed khan 1st (1666-1695)

The founder of Ahmedzai Dynasty and Royal Family
His Role, Achievements and contribution for the establishment of
Kalat State (Balochistan).

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ABSTRACT:

The Baloch government formed in soorab under the Mirwani's a sub-tribe of Kambrani Tribe. The Baloch tribes are living in a huge are, but during the 14th and 15th centuries they were mostly dispersed and non-unified. The big powers of the surrounding areas of Balochistan like Iran, Central Asia, Sindh and India were more established and had formed government. Balochistan and its habitants were divided among these powers, and this situation was continued from the centuries, and the Baloch tribes were perfect strangers on their own homeland. Mirwani started their rule from the city of soorab in the beginning of 15th century. After some times they defeated the Mongol governor and captured the area and city of Kalat. Than they shifted their capital from soorab to Kalat. Mirwani faced many difficulties for the establishment of their government in the area. They faced Jatts (Jattgal) and fought with them many times and escaped them from the area of Jhalawan. They also defeated Rind Lashar Baloch invaders. They defeated Mangols, Jatts and Rind and Lashars and secured their Dynasty. In the year of 1666 A.D after the death of Mir Hasan Mirwani, the Chiefs of Kam'rani tribes gave the Chair of Khanate to a very young and brave man, named was Mir Ahmed. The objectives behind this study are to search the

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achievements and contributions of a great Baloch ruler (Khan) Mir Ahmed Khan, who ruled 29 years on Balochistan and done unforgettable achievements and services. This study is descriptive in nature and the secondary sources were consulted for the purpose.

Key Words:

Agha Jaffar Mughal, Ahmedzai, Baloch, Balochistan, Barozai, Brahui, Jattgal, Jhalawan, Kech, Kalat, Kambrani, Kerthar, Khan of Kalat, Mai Beebo, Mir Ahmed Khan Mirwani, Moola, Pishin, Qandhar, Quetta, Safavids, Sibi, Soorab, Zunoon Baig Arghoon.

Introduction:

Background of Baloch Rule in Kalat (Balochistan)

Some historians mention their observations and views about the history of the area of Balochistan before the formation of Baloch dynasty in the area that, a Hindu family, which called "SEVA" ruled over Kalat before the emergence of Baloch Rule. The city of Kalat was called *Kalat-e-Seva*, because of the rule of this (*Seva*) family or King. According to historians he (*Seva*) was permanently stayed at Kalat but his only son, named was "Sangeen" Lived in the permanently area of Zehri.

The author describes this story in detail and conclude it in the following words, that, the seva called Kambrani family and tribes for help against the Afghan rebels and invaders, whose creating difficulties and problems for seva and interfering in his dynasty, So, Mir Kamrani defeated the Afghan rebels and resolved the problems of Kalat. After this revolutionary success he dissolved the seva's government and formed his own rule over Seva's dynasty. (Saeed Dehwar: 1990: 370) This story have no base and any authentic historical support but Malik Mohammed Saeed Dehwar support this opinion in his book, *Tarikh-e-Balochistan*. And he says that after the invasion of India by taimoor lane in 1395, A.D, the

Punjab, Multan and many other territories of Sub-Continent had been destroyed by the hands of Taimoor's troops. And after the return of Taimoor many Indian states became free and independent. Than a person of Laugah tribe of Punjab or Sindh, which was originally, belonged to the area of Kâchhi, Balochistan, Occupied the Kalat and its surrounding area. His name was Sardar Roy Sehra. **(Dehwar, Saeed: 1990: 371-72)**

Mir Gul Khan Naseer says that the Mir Kambar was the Chief of those tribes, whose defeated by Anusherwan of Persia in the year 531, A.D. Mir Kambar and his tribes left their home land, which called Burz Koh in the Shahnama Firdosi, and via Seistan, chagai and Kharan, they reached soorab and its surrounding areas. **(Naseer, Gul: 2000: 1)** these new comers called Burz Kohi by the Hindu natives of the area, because of their ancient native land Burz Kohi. **(Naseer, Gul: 2000: 2)** According to said author that, when Mangols inserganices and activities started in the area of Central Balochistan than the Seva King of Kalat had no power to fight or defeat the Mangols, and the otherside the Kambrani tribes supported Mangols during this revolution and after the Mangols occupation over Kalat, these Kambrani tribes established their self in the area of soorab, Kalat and Jhalawan. When Mangols loses their power in Central Asia and Iran and as well as in Kalat, than the Zunoon Baig Arghoon Defeated the Mangols in Kalat and captured the dynasty. **(Naseer, Gul: 2000: 5)**

Mir Meero Kambrani was the chief of his tribes, during this revolution he checked the weak position of the Mangols, so, he advanced to the areas of Soorab, Sia Kumb, Maarap, Gidar, Chappar, Ziarat, Desh-e-Goran and etc. he defeated the Jatts (Jattgal) in the above areas, defeat and escaped them towards Sindh dynasty and occupied a huge area. **(Naseer, Gul: 2000: 5)**

According to historians, Kambrani tribes started their rule over the Brahui's areas during fifteenth century. Mir Meero Kambrani formed his government in the beginning of Sixteenth Century. He played a significant role in the making of Baloch rule in the area and for its establishment. After his death his family called Mirwani because of his sovereign role. The rule of this family was ended in 1666. A.D, when the last ruler of this family, Mir Hasan was died without any successor, so. He nominated or

the Meers (Sardars) of tribes selected a young and brave man from Kambrani tribes for the Royal chair of Kalat. His name was Mir Ahmed Khan. (Khan, Ahmed: 1974: 23-24)

Mir Ahmed Khan 1st & His Time

"Mir Ahmed Khan 1st ascended to the throne in Kalat as Khan-e-Baloch after the death of Mir Hassan Khan Baloch of the Mirwani tribe in 1666. The special feature of the inauguration of Ahmedzai Khanate is that it was on the coronation institute the solemn tradition of taking oath of loyalty and complete obedience to the ruler on the throne" (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 77)

Oath:

"We (the Balochs) shall obey the order of the Khan-e Baloch unreservedly without any objection and we will not hesitate to sacrifice our all to protect the throne from its enemies" (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 77)

Reforms:

The Baloch rule had been started from centuries ago, but it could not extend its ethnic and political boundaries towards the other Baloch areas. It had many reasons, like i- the Balochistan was bounded between two big powers, in the east Muslim sultanate of India and, in the west a great Kingdom of Safavid Iran. (Tale, G.P: 1973: 45-54) But, when Mir Ahmed ascended on the Khanate of Kalat in 1666. (GovtRecord: 2002: 14) that time many social and political changes influenced the Baloch territory. So, in this favorable atmosphere he quickly took steps and started his reforms.

He took immediate step and introduced necessary reforms in the favor of the state and the people. He founded a Baloch Confederation comprising of smaller units. He divided different responsibilities in the tribal chiefs and gave them authority. He formed different departments and setup a formed government.

A historian gives his statement in the following words,

"A Diwan (court) was established consisting of the Sardars of all the tribes and other dignitaries. The members of this court served collectively as a representatives panel from which the acknowledge Sardars were made responsible for the affairs of their respective tribes" (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 75)

Mir Ahmed Khan systemized the judiciary department of the State. According to the inside Balochistan,

"On the judiciary side, a Council of Elders, officially called the Balochs Jirga was formed. This body which consisted of the Sardars from all the tribes was empowered to decide cases and disputes. The disputants found however, had the right of appeal, and all such appeals were personally heard by the Khan-e-Baloch who would, if found necessary, overrule or revise the verdict in due consultation with the members of the Diwan". (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 78)

The land reforms of Mir Ahmed Khan 1st have also importance in the history of Balochistan. An author describes following statement about his land reforms, says, that,

"Mir Ahmed Khan was democratic-minded is evident from the fact that each tribe was allotted a clearly specified area which was administrated independently by the tribesmen and their local Sardars. There was no interference from the centre in the day-to-day functioning of such autonomous areas unless, of course, interference was legally necessary under the prevalent laws of the State" (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 78)

Battles & Achievements

In this aspect many historians accepted and explore his achievements against the Mangols, Barozais of Sibi and Kalhoras of Sindh. He was the first ruler who was not only defeated the invaders but he also extended his dynasty towards the Baloch populated areas. He captured a huge area and began the independent rule of Khanate.

A historian says that,

“The period of the independent Khanate began with him: he extended the border of the confederacy: the history of the Khanate assumed a clear, definite shape: and its chronology could be determined.”
(Baloch, Inayath Ullah: 1987: 102).

According to Mir Gul Khan Naseer,

“In 1667, after one year rule by him, the Mangol governor of Qandahar attempts an expedition towards Kalat. Mir Ahmed Khan faced him near Khad-e-Koocha, a town between Mastung and Mangochar. Baloch troops defeated the invaders, and Agha Jaffar the governor of Qandahar and the commander of his troops left the battle field after a bloody clash and escaped to Qandahar. Majority of his troops have killed in the battle field and after that the Mir Ahmed Khan captured the dynasty of Mastung.” (Naseer, Gul: 2000: 15)

Inayatullah Baloch sketches his forward policy towards eastern Balochistan in the following words,

Ahmed pursued a policy of friendship with the powerful emperor of India, Aurangzaib, became his military ally against Shia Iran and also had a free hand to deal with the Barozai Afghans, the petty chiefs of sibi. He invaded their territory 18 times, and in one expedition his sister, Mai Beebo, the commander of the Kalat army, lost her life. Nevertheless, he was victorious over the Afghans and occupied, Karakh, Chaku, Quetta and Pishin” (Baloch, Inayath Ullah: 1987: 102-03).

Qazi Shaikh Fazal paid tribute to Mai Beebo in the following stanza in his book Jang Nama,

*Yake khuaish bood Beebo banaam
Hamaa mard maan kard oar islaam
Cho mardaan ba deevaam nishtee mudaam
Ba gardish hamaa mardaan khaas o aam
Zane bood daanaa bisy hoshiyaar
Ba mardaangee dar jihaan oshtiyaar.* (Naseer, Gul: 2000: 15)

He fought many times with the Jatts of Jhalawan and captured a huge area. He defeated Barozai's and Jatts of Kachhi in the Moola Pass, and occupied a huge area up to the Keerthar Mountains. (**Naseer, Gul: 2000: 17**)

He extended his boundaries towards mostly Baloch populated areas. One time, before the reign of Mir Ahmed Khan 1st the Kalat was a small area which was bounded between eastern and western powers, and it was consist only on some towns and villages like Kalat town, Soorab and its surrounding area and Mangochar. But when Mir Ahmed Khan came on the Royal chair, he quickly and immediately changed his policy and formed a strong tribal squad, from the young warriors of different Baloch tribes. He changed the nature of Baloch dynasty and the people. And no doubt, he succeeded.

TRIBUTE TO HIM BY THE HISTORIANS

Mir Ahmed Khan 1st was the founder of Modern Baloch Khanate, and as well as he was the first Khan of Kalat who worked for the extending the boundaries of his State. The historians cordially accept his services and contributions for the unification of Baloch dynasty and natives. Mir Ahmed Khan paid him the following tribute. Says,

“He was the first khan who organized the Baloch tribes. He was a great and successful Administrator thinker and a brave soldier. (**Khan, Ahmed: 1974: 26**)

He further describes that, he was the founder of Ahmedzai family, they called Ahmedzai, because of him and he is the ancestor of the last ruling family of Kalat, Ahmedzai. (**Khan, Ahmed: 1974: 29**)

Dr Shah Mohammed Marri criticizes upon him and titled him the superior feudal lord of the Mirwani tribe, but, accepted him the ancestor of Ahmedzai dynasty. (**Marri, Shah Muhammad: 2000: 122**)

Mohammed Saeed Dehwar paid him the following tribute, that the Mir Ahmed Yar Khan was the first Khan of Kalat, who took advantages to the weaknesses of both big powers of east and west. (**Dehwar: 1990: 416**)

According to Mir Gul Khan Naseer that, Mir Ahmed Khan was the first to rule Kalat like a sovereign Throughout his reign he was fighting Bazozais, the Kalhoras of Sindh, and the Mangols, aiming to extend Baloch dominions. Extremely brave, he inspired his tribes and gave them a zest of power. He trained them in the art of warfare and guided them towards a bright future before his death. (Naseer, Gul: 2000: 15)

The author of "inside Balochistan" concluded his chapter about Mir Ahmed Khan 1st on the following words,

"To sum up, it can safely be said that the period 1666-1695 signifies the first demarcated and well organized mode of governance in Baloch history under Mir Ahmed Khan. He kept the ever-enterprising Moghals at bay, and drones them back several times. He laid the foundations of Ahmedzai Khandom on very sound bases, free from internal discords and disturbances. He is the popular Balochi adage: "his head (i-e) the Khan-e-Azam's)" is crowned with the world pledged by Balochs. The "head, may be lost, but not the words" These words of Mir Ahmed yar Khan reflect the sentimental source of legitimacy of relationship between a ruler and the ruled" (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 78-9)

The great ruler, founder of a Royal family and a dynasty, Mir Ahmed Yar Khan 1st eventually died peacefully in 1695 after reigning for 29 years as the Khan-e-Baloch, and lies buried in Kalat. (Khan, Ahmed: 1975: 79)

CONCLUSION

This is not possible to define a ruler, royal person, his life, era and achievements in a few lines. But, this is a painful problem with the history of Balochistan that many very important personalities, events treaties and many other definable topics ignored by the historians, while these events or personalities have significant role in history. The same behavior has repeated with the Mir Ahmed Khan and his era. No doubt that, there are lot of primary sources about him and his era, but, these in formations are not in detail. These are just some incomplete lines about an ancestor of a dyansty. When Mir Ahmed Khan 1st began his rule, his dynasty was consisted on some small towns and villages, and he was bounded in a

small area, just some square miles. This dynasty was started in the north from Mangochar and ended in the south to Soorab. His position was not more than a tribal chief. He was the head of some Brahui speaking Baloch tribes. A huge area of Balochistan was in the hands of big powers of the area. The Baloch dynasty was divided into many countries including the natives, which were totally Baloch tribesmen. The political and educational awareness was non in these tribes they just had respect for their Khan and tribal Chiefs, but, they had no idea of rule. They were simple people and their living was also very simple. They never accepted the dominion of any power or nation, and neither they made slave any nation, and nor they needed it.

But Mir Ahmed Yar Khan 1st woke up his slept nation and gave them the zeast of power. These mountainios natives were by birth warriors but, they have no experience of big wars or battles. Mir Ahmed Khan 1st trained them for warfare and after the preparation of tribal army; he conquered and captured a huge area with the help of this army.

The Mirwani rulers of Soorab and Kalat spent a long time as the ruler head of soora and kalat, from 1410 to 1666, but, they failed to extend and unified the area and the natives of Baloch territory. But, the Ahmedzai rulers started their achievements from their ancestor. This family played a historical and significant role for the unification of Baloch and Balochistan and they succeeded. They successfully unified the all Baloch areas, and brought them under a single geographical boundary. They also unite and organized the thousands of depressed Baloch tribes and made them an honorable nation. This credit goes to Mir Ahmed Khan, who started his policy of unification, and successfully done its first phase. And, when he left his nation, he gave a huge area to his successor, which was started in the north from Pishin to the south with the borders of Labella, and in the east from Sibi and Kachi to the Mekran. He a^lso left a trained and compact squad for his successors, and for more conquests.

After the death of him his successor, Mir Mehrab Khan 1st, Mir Samandar Khan, Mir Abdullah Khan and the great Mir Naseer Khan, followed his policies and extended their geographical and political boundaries towards the Baloch populated areas, and one time the

boundaries of Balochistan reached on 3,40,000 square miles in the area of Mir Naseer Khan Noori. Indeed Mir Ahmed Khan 1st deserves it, that, to paid him tribute.

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